MASON'S

COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

MAGAZINE.

VOL. III. NOVEMBER, 1869. No. 11.

ALASKAN RELICS AND CURIOSITIES.

(*Continued.*)

Captain Fast informs us that the Kaloces have properly no idea of such a being as God, the good and beneficent. Their worship, like that of all idolaters, has chiefly to do with objects of terror. Their principal deity, Ikth, like the destroying Siva and Kali, is the harbinger of death, and the great business of the medicine man is by conjuring and charms to cast him out of the sick and thus heal their maladies. To them the world of nature is full of enemies; all things, in their estimation, are in a state of war. "Everything," says Captain Fast, "which, within the realm of creation, is of preponderating importance to their existence, as water, rain, wood, the fish, the bear, etc., they represent to themselves a hostile principle, and as one whose protection for themselves and help against their enemies they must endeavor to obtain. Their imagination gives to such beings those grotesque and horrid forms which we find expressed on their old articles of furniture and dress, and in the carvings of their old weapons, idols, charms, and their smaller utensils, with stereotyped unity and precision."

The god Ikth is represented in these relics under a variety of forms; some of the most striking are wooden images of human beings; others, grotesque faces and forms, combined in various shapes. It was probably supposed that the collective virtue of an image compounded of many forms would be greater than that of a single figure. The tutelary images of the Huron and Algonkins, if we may credit the following statements of Charlevoix, quoted in McIntosh's North American Indians, were generally selected in accordance with some dream:

"It is remarkable, however, that these tutelary dieties are not supposed to take men under their protection till something has been done to merit their favor. A parent who wishes to obtain a guardian for his child, first blackens his face and then causes him to fast for several days. During this time, it is expected that the spirit will reveal himself in a dream, and, on this account, the child is anxiously examined every morning with regard to the visions of the preceding night. Whatever the child happens to dream of most frequently, even if it happens to be the head of a bird, the foot of an animal, or anything of the most worthless nature, becomes the symbol under which the *Okki* [Huron term for *Manito*] reveals himself. With this figure, in the conception of his votary, the spirit becomes identified; the image is preserved with the greatest care; is the constant companion on all important occasions, and the object of consultation and worship."—*Charlevoix' Journal*, let. xxiv. p. 345.

(*To be continued.*)

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(*Continued.*)

Fugio or Franklin Cent, 1787; obverse, a sun and dial, but without inscription or date; reverse, in the centre a depression, around which is a ring inscribed "American Congress," rays radiating from the ring, the whole surrounded by a chain, the links of which bear the names of the thirteen original States; uncirculated; only one other known. $28.

Fugio or Franklin Cent, 1787; obverse, from a rare die, but bearing a general resemblance to the ordinary type; reverse, a sun in the centre, "We are one;" outside of these words, on a raised ring, "American Congress," the whole surrounded by an endless chain of thirteen links, bearing the names of the original States; uncirculated; bright; unique. $35.

Fugio, 1787; obverse, from the same die as the last; reverse, of the ordinary type; uncirculated. $3.

Fugio, 1787; bright and uncirculated. $1 25.

Fugio, 1787; bright; different variety. $1 25.

Fugio, 1787, with club shaped rays; fine, scarce. $1 12.

Fugio, 1787, "States united;" uncirculated. $1 25.

Fugio, 1787, "United States;" the rings appearing on the obverse; uncirculated. $1.

Fugio, 1787; a selection of four pieces, all fine. 75 cents.

Fugio, 1787; struck in silver from an original die, recently discovered; splendid impression. $2 50.

Fugio, 1787; same as the last, in copper, bright. 62 cents.

Immune Columbia, 1785; Liberty seated; reverse, Nova Constellatio; silver, in beautiful condition, and of the highest rarity. $40.

Immune Columbia, 1785; same variety as the last, struck in copper; perfectly uncirculated; excessively rare. $30.

Immune Columbia, 1785; obverse, bust; reverse, Liberty seated; in fine condition; extremely rare $10.

Vermonts Res Publica, 1785; reverse, Quarta Decima Stella; very fine and rare. $5.

Vermonts Res Publica, 1785, from another die; fine and scarce. $1 50.

Vermontis Res Publica, 1785; very fine. $9.

Vermontensium Res Publica, 1786; seven trees; fine. $4.

Vermontensium Res Publica, 1786; eight trees; very fine. $3.

Vermont Cent, 1786; baby head; very fine; scarce. $1 75.

Vermon Auctori, 1787; struck over another coin. $1.

Vermon Auctori, 1787; fine. $1 12.

Vermont Cent, 1787; obverse, bust in armor, Georgius III. Rex; reverse, Britannia. 50 cents.

Vermont Cent, 1787; same design as the last but, from a different die. 25 cents.

(*To be continued.*)

REMINISCENCES OF A COIN COLLECTOR.

NEW SERIES.

No. 1.

BY E. MASON, JR.

Years may pass away, but the remembrance of a coin hunting trip we once made in company with Chas. K. W. and Wm. F. S., of Philadelphia, will remain with us while memory holds her own. One delightful summer morning, in 1867, the above mentioned numismatists and the writer assembled at the office of the Reading railroad and purchased tickets for Schuylkill Haven, with a view of obtaining a

well known cabinet of coins, the property of a Mr. B., residing a few miles distant from the last named locality. The ride was pleasant, made doubly so by the prospect, upon reaching our journey's end, of seeing some remarkably rare coins.

Upon arriving at Schuylkill Haven, we obtained a light wagon and a spirited 2.40 light-footed pony and drove to the residence of Mr. B. The latter gentleman, anticipating our visit, had arranged his collection of coins for examination; and in a short time each of our little party was carefully looking over the treasures, fully confidant that we should become the happy possessors of the entire cabinet, and return to the Quaker City joyous over our numismatic acquisitions; but "man proposes," and our readers know the rest.

After spending an hour or two in the happy employment of estimating the value and rarity of the collection, and learning that the price required for the cabinet was two thousand dollars, we retired to a country hotel, just opposite our friend's residence, and compared notes. In the meantime, the landlord had prepared a very tempting sandwich for each of us, as the dinner hour had long since passed, and we were obliged to be at Orwigsburg station within an hour, to return to Philadelphia or remain all night in a rather lonesome country borough.

We fixed upon a sum to offer the owner of the collection, and after giving him our decision and requesting him to consider the matter and notify us by letter to Philadelphia, we ordered our wagon up in front of the hotel, and prepared to reach the station before named, some three or four miles distant. Our wagon was provided with but one fixed seat, and there were three of us besides the driver. The driver borrowed a box seat with back affixed, before leaving Schuylkill Haven, and put it in the back end of the wagon. Mr. F. S., having an eye to personal safety, and no doubt, wishing to learn something of the country through which we were about to pass, selected a seat upon the front with the driver, while Charley W. and the writer took a back seat. The landlord just popped out with the ham sandwiches and distributed them. As we were somewhat hungry, riding one hundred miles without refreshment, we soon commenced our hasty meal, while the driver crying out, "All aboard!" gave his horse the whip and the latter leaped forward in such eager haste that the two unfortunate passengers, occupying the rear seat (with its comfortable back) were thrown suddenly a back somersault, landing on the hard paved road in the rear. (The *cause* and *effect* are briefly explained by an adapted phrase altered to suit circumstances: "Not that we loved *safety less*, but *sandwiches more!*" Having just crammed a big end of the double sliced condiment—ham, mustard and bread—far into our capacious mouth, while each hand grasped the sides of the sandwich, Oh! that we had grasped the sides of the wagon instead); but to proceed:

We wish we could paint this scene, as witnessed by the crowd around the hotel, who were gathered to see us take our leave; but, as the writer (only two hundred pounds avoirdupois) had the sandwich and wind knocked completely out of him, and his friend Charley was in the same predicament, while F. S. and the driver were striving to hold in the spirited nag, we must trust to the spectators' description, which was seriously laughable at first and expensively serious afterwards

Charley and the writer were knocked insensible and picked up by the bystanders, carried to the hotel steps, where restoratives were used (ice water) to bring them to.—Charley was the first to become sensible and immediately searched for the remnants of his ham sandwich, while the writer soon after remembered *eating something* just before the accident, and upon opening his eyes, what a sight! letters, handkerchiefs, jack-knives, hats, pocket books, coin catalogues, bread, butter and ham promiscuously scattered about. Notwithstanding the writer received severe injuries which cost him a week's confinement, and considerable money for cupping and doctor's attendance, yet a smile will imperceptibly steal over his countenance when he thinks of the sad mishap which befell the party devoted to the accumulation of numismatic wealth. Poor Charley shrugs his shoulders when the coin hunting trip is alluded to, and says the pain is in his back to this day; while the writer, although kindly aided home and attended by the faithful and humane efforts of F. S., will carry the marks of that backward somersault for many a year. This true sketch is related simply to show some few of the trials and tribulations attending coin hunting. We would add, the coins were not purchased and one more expensive and unfortunate trip "gunning up" collections has been added to the already full catalogue of futile efforts in that direction.

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(*Continued.*)

In the Journal of Congress of the 29th of April, 1783, an estimate of the whole Revolutionary debt is given (except the paper money), and it stands thus:

The foreign debt to France and Holland, ...	$7,885,085 00
Domestic debt, in various certificates, as above. . . .	34,115,290 00
	$42,000,375 00
The foreign bearing interest at four or five per cent., . .	369,038 06
The domestic at six per cent., . . .	2,046,917 04
	$2,415,955 10

When the Constitution by which we are now governed went into operation, Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, added to the domestic debt the claims held by several States against the National exchequer, to the amount of twenty-one millions five hundred thousand dollars, and then funded the whole by putting a part on interest at six per cent. immediately, postponing a part without interest for ten years, and then to bear six per cent., and the remainder on immediate interest at three per cent. The arrears of six years' interest were added, which, with some other unsettled claims, made the whole debt amount to ninety-four millions. Accustomed as we are, at the present day, to the large expenditures of the Federal Government, we may well be astonished at the ecomomy of the first year of Washington's administration, when the civil list was estimated at two hundred and eight thousand dollars, and the War Department at only one hundred and thirty-seven thousand, even including the Indian supplies. The establishment of a revenue to pay the interest on the debt in 1789, was equivalent to a capital (by bringing that debt to par) of nearly

one hundred millions, the greater part of which was held by our own citizens. This was the cause of immediate prosperity, and of the brilliant career which continued for many years after. Every dollar of this aggregate debt was, as we all know, most honorably paid.

(*To be continued.*)

NEW JERSEY CENT, 1787.

HEAD TO LEFT.

This remarkably peculiar coin, which was recently sold by auction, in this city, for twenty-five dollars, has attracted great attention in the numismatic world. Dr. Edward Maris, the purchaser of this unique piece, has had it thoroughly examined by the Boston experts, who express the opinion that the piece has been tampered with. If an altered coin, it is certainly an ingenious piece of workmanship, and one most likely to deceive the experienced numismatist. We received the coin back from Dr. Maris, and refunded the money he had paid for it. As soon as the piece was returned, it increased wonderfully in value. J. Colvin Randall, Esq., of this city, offered fifty and subsequently one hundred dollars for the coin, and this, too, without a guarantee of its originality. We confess, for once, we are puzzled as to the character of this New Jersey cent. We have considered it genuine beyond a doubt, since we purchased it in the "Thorn Collection; we now believe it genuine, *with a doubt*, and as that doubt arises from the argument, presented by Messrs. Maris and Crosby, we cannot yet acknowledge the coin an altered nor counterfeit piece; nor will we say it is *genuine*. One thing certain, the coin will not be sold to any one unless the doubt of its originality is fully explained. It is rather strange our worthy friend, the doctor, whose sagacity numismatically is unquestioned, should allow the "Boston Boys" to be the first to throw a doubt upon the coin. If the piece is not genuine, and ultimately so proved (beyond question), then we shall humbly remove our hat in honor of the ability and sagacity of Mr. Crosby, of Boston.

NEW YORK COIN SALES.

Since our last issue we have two coin sales to chronicle—one made under the auspices and *mis*-management of a Mr. Robinson, of Connecticut, which took place October 15, at the sales rooms of Bangs, Merwin & Co. The catalogue of this sale was an outrageous infringement on good numismatic taste, and reflects great *dis*-credit upon the author, Mr. R. The coins were as a whole as poor a congregation of trash as we remember to have seen offered at public sale. We pity the buyers of the pieces in the Robinson sale, and trust they will control their feelings, when comparing the coins purchased with the catalogued description of the same. The other coin sale was under the auspices of the publishers of this journal, and was a success, realizing nearly $2000. The following are some of the principal pieces, with the prices at which they were knocked down:

Woodgate & Co.'s liquor dealers' card brought $5 50; Isle of Man penny, $2 12; Barbadoes penny, $2 25; U. S. half eagle of 1821, $12 50; Maximillian $20 gold piece of 1866, $27; U. S. silver dollar of 1794, $41; U. S silver dollar of 1796, flowing hair, $5 50; U. S. silver dollar of 1851, brilliant proof, $31; U. S. silver dollar of 1856, brilliant proof, $17; U. S. silver half dollar of 1794, $5 50; U. S. silver quarter dollars of 1831, 1854 and 1857, brilliant proofs, $5 a piece; U. S. silver dime, 1797, $15 50; U.

S. copper cent, 1793, Liberty cap, $3; do., wreath, 1793, $7 75; do., 1793, chain, $7; do., 1795, Randall's celebrated Jefferson Head (this is the finest cent of this variety known to exist in any cabinet, in very fine condition, bearing the slightest marks of circulation, olive color, one of the most beautifully designed of the American series, and the rarest of all cents without exception), $141; U. S. cent of 1799, $11 50; do., 1848, brilliant proof, $15 50; flying eagle dollar, 1838, $40; pattern half eagle, 1860, $27 50; pattern half dollar, 1861, $24; pattern five cent piece, 1867, $16 50; pattern ten cent piece, 1868, $26; Peale Museum medal, $48; Gen. Meade medal, $20.

By reference to another column, it will be found that we shall have another fine collection of coins and medals to offer at public sale in New York.

THE LUCKY MAN.

J. W. Haseltine, Esq., of this city, is the lucky owner of Randall's celebrated "Jefferson Head" Cent of 1795, which was sold for $141 in the Randall sale of October 18 and 19. This piece follows close upon the value of the Mickley "Ameri" Cent of 1793, which sold for $145, in the sale of 27th and 28th of September, in New York.

THE UNIQUE NEW JERSEY COIN.

This piece, which was sold in the "Thorn collection," in this city, for $25, and subsequently returned by the buyer (who doubted the originality of the coin), has fallen into the hands of a gentleman of this city, who has put the piece to the severest test by fire and mechanical appliances, as well as submitted it to experts at the U. S. Mint and elsewhere; and we now have the pleasure of stating that the New Jersey coin is pronounced a *genuine and original piece*. To make "assurance doubly sure," the owner of the coin addressed Capt. Thorn, of Plainfield, the former proprietor of the cabinet in which the New Jersey Cent was found, and we are permitted to copy the reply, which, in our opinion, goes a great way towards disproving the assertion that the New Jersey piece came from a dealer in bogus coins in New York:

PLAINFIELD, N. J., Oct. 9, 1869.

DEAR SIR:

I have just received your letter and will answer it immediately. I remember both of those reversed Jersey cents, 1787 and '88. I have had them both over four years, and the dark one* I got of an old man that had a farm about three miles from here. He has since sold his farm and moved away, and I think he had the piece a number of years, for in 1858 or 1859 I was building a house opposite his farm house, and he used to come over and see us at our work, and one day, in talking about coins (as we found some in tearing down the old house), he told me he had a lot of coins; so, a few years after, I went to see him and bought all he had, and that Jersey cent was among the lot, for I knew when I saw it in his lot that it was valuable.

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD P. THORN.

*This refers to the 1787 New Jersey cent, which was very dark in color, while the other 1788 had a very brassy appearance.

JAMAICA COINS.

The nickel coins of Jamaica, just struck, represent Queen Victoria as of her actual age, and not, as on the English currency, as a very young girl.

THE EARLY HISTORY OF GREENBACKS.

Texts of scripture have often been inscribed upon coins. One of the most remarkable is on a copper coin issued by the Papal government, on which are the words, *Væ vobis divitibus*—"Woe to you who are rich!" When the greenbacks were first issued by the United States, Mr. Chase, then Secretary of the Treasury, consulted, among others, the president of one of the Philadelphia banks in regard to placing a motto upon them—such, for example, as has since been impressed upon the five cent pieces—"In God we trust." After mentioning several scriptural texts that had occurred to him, the Secretary asked our banker's opinion. "Perhaps," was the reply, "the most appropriate would be; 'Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee!'" The project was abandoned.–*Lippincott's Magazine.*

ANOTHER NEW YORK COIN SALE.

We are now cataloguing a very valuable collection of American and foreign coins and medals, which will be offered for sale on the 16th and 17th inst., at the sales room of Bangs, Merwin & Co., 694 Broadway, New York. Among the choice pieces will be found some desirable pattern pieces, never yet offered at public sale; also, some fine cents, half cents (including patterns), colonials, rare silver coins and a valuable collection of medals. Catalogues will be ready on November 6, and forwarded to all our subscribers.

NEW YORK COIN SALE OF NOVEMBER 16 & 17.

Send for catalogues to this office, or to No. 54 Wall street, New York.

RARE COINS.

At a recent sale of rare coins and medals, in New York, a pattern ten cent piece of 1868 sold for $26. A cent, known as "Randall's head of Jefferson," sold for $141. If some of the Berks county people, who have been putting coins away all their lives against a time of need, would send some of them to auction they would be prizes to the collectors and little fortunes to the owners. *Philadelphia Morning Post.*

CONTINUATION SALE.

RELICS, AUTOGRAPHS, CURIOSITIES, INDIAN IMPLEMENTS, MINERALS, FOSSILS, SHELLS, &C.

The sale of Peale's museum relics, etc., of October 13 and 14, will be continued early this month, at Birch & Son's auction rooms, in this city. Due notice will be given by catalogue to all our regular customers in time to send in bids.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. H. W.—The report is false, and was started to injure us in our New York business. We know the author, and shall, 'ere long, measure swords with him.

P. S.—The copper 5 cent patterns of 1866 are held at $15; the nickel at $8; and it is almost impossible to get them at those prices. There will be some of these patterns in our next New York sale, on the 16th and 17th insts. Coin dealers can get them only by public sales.

R. M., JR.—*Immune* Columbia coin is the rare variety—the *Immunis* is worth say $10 to $20.

J. W., GREENWICH.—No returns from C. O. D. package of coins sent you, September 30. The package is at Adams Express Office in G

M. O. J.—We want an assistant, but he must invest and share profits.

S. S., New York.—Letters were written from Philadelphia to New York, and thence communications passed to Boston. We are sifting the whole thing. It is a base insinuation, as the party well knew that Mr. M. was a very cautious bidder at coin sales. A good refutation of the slander is the fact that half a dozen bidders exceeded the ten dollar bid on the pattern 5's at R.'s sale in New York.

Alpha, Springfield.—The cents in last sale sold very low. We can supply you from stock we bought at that sale at 50 cents for fine 40's; 25 cents for fine 50's; $1 for fine 30's; $2 for fine 20's; $1 50 for bright 1816's, 1817's, 1818's and 1819's; $2 50 for bright uncirculated small date 1819's; $2 for bright 1820's; all uncirculated.

S. H. L. M., Cincinnati.—Please be prompt to take C. O. D. packages when delivered, as each day of delay puts us to considerable trouble.

T. S, Baltimore.—C. O. D. package for you at Adams Express Office in B.

Ufford & Co., W. Troy.—The same reply to you. Package is at your office.

NOTICE.

All parties indebted to us for sales in New York of September 27 and 28, October 15, 18 and 19, are requested to pay up.

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

HOW OUR NEW POSTAGE STAMPS ARE MADE.

BY COSMOPOLITAN.

Let us commence at the very begining, and follow step by step the different and interesting processes these little bits of paper are subjected to. In the first place, a number of designs for stamps are furnished the Government by the Bank Note Company. These designs are upon steel, and engraved in the finest style of steel line engraving, and are perfect marvels of art. Should a design be accepted it becomes necessary to duplicate it, as it would be impossible to print the large number of stamps required from a single plate. To do this the original die is transferred to steel plates, three hundred designs being on each. The machines for accomplishing this transferring are beautifully made and mathematically correct in work, and so accurate that millions of stamps printed from perhaps hundreds of plates are all exactly alike. The plates being finished, they are sent to the press-room, and are ready to receive the ink used in printing. This ink, or rather the different colored inks are made upon the premises, their formulas being very valuable to the company. The printing is done by hand presses, and although seemingly laborious, the company are now printing one million and a half stamps daily. The plate is first inked by an ordinary roller, then wiped with a cloth, and finally with the operator's hand. This is a very nice operation, and requires much dexterity. The paper used is of a fine variety, manufactured expressly for the company by a firm in Massachusetts, the amount per annum consumed being over sixteen tons. Before being placed upon the plate it is wetted down to enable it to receive the ink evenly. As the sheets of stamps are printed, they are laid carefully away to dry. As soon as they are dry they pass to the "Gumming Room" and receive their coat of mucilage. This mucilage is dextrine, a preparation of starch, and is the same as used by calico printers. It is laid on the backs of the sheets (which are held fast by an iron

frame) with large brushes somewhat resembling those used for white-washing. A dexterous young woman can easily gum thirty or forty sheets per minute. After receiving the gum they are placed on wire frames and deposited in a drying room, where they remain until dry. This operation being finished they are consigned to the "embosser," who, with a remarkably complicated and delicate machine, leaves the little square chequer board mark we see upon our stamps. This mark is to permit the obliterating ink to sink into the fabric of the paper so that the stamps cannot be readily cleansed.

(*To be continued.*)

PHILATELISM AS A FINE ART.

BY C. F.

(*Concluded.*)

The varieties of German stamps seem innumerable, but among them are included those of the former postal territory of the Princes of Thurn and Taxis. The designs upon the latter being merely numerals indicating value, they have no artistic value. Austria has one hundred different varieties of stamps, and Spain hardly, if any, less. Italy has one hundred and thirty-five; France (republican and imperial), forty; the Pope, twenty; Greece, fifteen; the Dutch Indies, Sierra Leone, Malta, and puny, pugulistic Paraguay, each but one.

The best philatelic album extant used to be Lalier's, but it has been superseded by a polyglot edition compiled by Van Rinsum, and giving a minute description of every stamp in the English, French, German and Dutch languages. It is published in Amsterdam, is an exquisite specimen of typography, and has but one fault—it lacks an index.

If we be asked what is the use of philatelism, and what corresponding reward is returned for the bestowal of so much time, money and patience in its pursuit, we shall make but an indifferent reply. Yet we might argue that an old postage stamp becomes a brief and imperfect index to some epoch in a nation's existence. In process of time these little labels become historic. Impressed as they are with the arms of the state, the portrait of the national ruler, or with the name of some denomination of money, it will readily be believed that they might become valuable exponents in the case of some buried Herculaneum, when even the slightest clue would be counted as great. At present, if nothing more, they are an interesting and elegant study, and afford a subtle and innocent relish to young and old alike among the graver pursuits of life.

THE STUDY OF PHILATELY.

I would place as benefits accruing from this study some of which have not hitherto been placed to its credit, such as improvements in health or tone of mind in invalids or hypochondriacs, resulting from their having been drawn out of themselves by interest in their stamp albums. Any other engrossing pursuit—numismatology or entomology, etc.—it is true, would have done as well; still, as an essay touching on all the benefits to be derived from stamp collecting, this must not be overlooked, such cases being on record. Far more substantial benefits than these may be mentioned as specially due to philately. Education is advanced in the young and in the older members of the fraternity, also. I would note two points in which, educationally, philately is of special benefit—geography and history. With regard to the first point, geography.

Many of us never heard of the island of Nevis, nor its famed mineral springs, before the small red label introduced itself to our notice; now the youngest philatelist has that fact engraved on a safe memory tablet. We learn also the change of names in the designation of countries—how Van Dieman's Land became Tasmania. Our West and East Indian pages form a valuable *memoria technica*, whereby we are enabled to remember to which several country each island belongs. We have evidence, too, of the *character* of the people in different lands. The stamps of Spain and her colonies, with their changing issues, fill pages of her albums; some changes, the acknowledged result of the abundance of forgeries, some, for apparently no reason but caprice, marking an unsettled habit of mind. In contrast, *vide* conservative John Bull sticks to his original penny stamp for more than *a quarter of a century*. In considering the point of geography, it is almost impossible to separate from it the second point, of history—political history, when we see how the countries in the neighborhood of Prussia became subject to the over ruling influence of that country years before their governments were swamped by the all-conquering Bismarck.

(*To be continued.*)

GOOD NEWS.

Our prayers and petitions in behalf of the old U. S. postage stamps, with their venerable and revered portraits of the patriots of the past, have not been in vain; our humble but decided expressions of dislike for the tupenny "gum stickers," together with our caricatured review of these "new issues," have, in a measure, influenced the government to discard the pretty little pictures of jockey riders, blue locomotives and class room views of history, and now we have the cheering news that the postage stamps are again to bear the likenesses of our departed heroes.

The designs of the new stamps are rapidly approaching completion, and soon we can unite with our countrymen in a general and joyous enthusiasm over the defeat of the present abortion of postage stamps, and throw up our hats in a frenzy of patriotism when the new postage stamps adorn and honor the right upper corner of all American letters entrusted to Uncle Sam's post bags.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR.

Deem not his mission all in vain,
Who with his album in his hand.
In fancy travels o'er the main
Collecting stamps from every land.
The little stamp collector learns
Each country's latitude and place
Upon the map, and soon discerns
Their longitude, clime and race.
Thus eager in the task he loves,
With cheerful heart he hurries on,
While through the field of art he roves,
Where other youthful friends have gone
Collecting stamps from every clime,
Detecting spurious from the true,
And like a banker learns in time,
The stamp that's obsolete or new.
With the feelings of a connoisseur
Doth he behold the stamp that's rare,
Which often did elude his search
Thro' many months of anxious care.
But still in patience and in hope,
He wanders on 'neath sun and rain.
Until the album is complete,
When toil and love is paid with gain.

Curiosity Collectors' Magazine.

SCOTT'S AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

BY J. WALTER SCOTT.

New York. J. W. Scott & Co.

We have just received advance sheets of the above work and must say that, when bound, it will form the most complete stamp album yet published. Spaces are provided for

every stamp issued to date of publication, including panels for variety of types but not of color. The indefatigable energy of the complier, and his desire to make his book as acceptable to collectors as possible, is shown in the fact, that spaces are provided for the newly issued stamps of Angola and Antioquia. We think this album will supply a want long felt among American collectors. It is printed on good paper, strongly bound in cloth or morocco, and does not require the collection of a couple of dozen varieties of New Zealand, South Australia, etc., to make those pages look full, as is the case in the majority of foreign albums. We predict a large sale for this work, both at home and abroad. Orders received at either of our offices, No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia, or No. 54 Wall Street, New York. Price, $5 in cloth, $6 in half morocco.

NEW ISSUES.

SPAIN.

The best reason we have yet seen for the retention of the head of Isabella on the Spanish stamps we noticed in the New York Times, a few days since. It is as follows:

"The portrait of Isabella is retained on the Spanish postage stamps because of the gratification it affords revolutionary patriots to lick it, and revolutionary clerks to stamp it."

WEST INDIES.

It is rumored that the islands of of Barbadoes, Tobago, Grenada, St. Kitts, Dominica, Antigua, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Montserrat, Nevis and the Virgin Isles will be united under one government, and a set of postage stamps issued for general use.

NICARAGUA.

From the Stamp Collectors' Magazine, we learn that two new values, identical in design with those now in use, have been emitted for this republic. The new values are as follows:

10 centavos, light vermillion.
25 " greenish blue.

VICTORIA.

The three penny stamp has made its appearance in orange instead of lilac.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. M. F., BOSTON.—There are two shades of the one penny Antigua—red and brick red.

W. P., ZANESVILLE.—Prussian envelopes with the head of the king are becoming very scarce.

J. H. B., WASHINGTON.—The 1869 issue of U. S. stamps are now obsolete and sell for fifty per cent. in advance of facial value.

F. H., NEW YORK.—You will find a fine assortment of stamps at our New York office, No. 54 Wall street.

RELICS, MINERALS, ETC., FOR SALE.

The following lots, left over at Relic sale of October 13, will be closed out as follows:

No. 1. A lot of 250 Minerals, &c., all labeled and all different, consisting of amethyst and quartz crystals, beautiful agates, lead, copper and zinc ores; California gold specimen (worth $2 50); calcidony, &c.; a fine cabinet, well assorted with choice specimens; will be carefully packed and sent by express for $25.

No. 2. A lot of 3 varieties of Tuppa cloth, made from the cocoanut bark by the South Sea Islanders, (12 inches square each); $1 50 for the lot.

No. 3. A prepared Buffalo Hide, elaborately ornamented, used as a bed by a Comanche chief; (from Peale's Museum). Price, $3.

No. 4. Bridle and Reins from South America, made of hide, in perfect order. Price, $1.

No. 5. Skin of a Wild Cat. Price, 50 cents.

No. 6. Riding Whip of Bolivia, seamless stock, perfect. Price, $1.

No. 7. A pair of Powder Horns, from South America; made and stained by the Indians. Price, $2 per pair.

No. 8. Chinese Shoe, embroidered. Price, $1.

No. 9. Indian Silk Boot, imperfect. Price, 50 cents.

No. 10. A beautiful Grass Bridle, from South America, (Peale's Museum). Price, $1 50.

No. 11. A Shell found on the battle field of Germantown. Price, $1.

No. 12. A Grass Belt (South America), 2½ inches wide, 6 feet long; (from Peale's Museum. Price, 75 cents.

No. 13. A Chinese Sword, tortoise shell scabbard, in good order. Price, $3 50.

No. 14. A Hide Hobble or Fetter, South America. Price, 50 cents.

No. 15. An Indian Feather Head Dress. Price, 50 cents.

No. 16. A Spy Glass, from Peale's Museum. Price, $1 50. Address

MASON & CO.,
No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

SCOTT'S AMERICAN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

We can supply collectors with these albums, at the following prices:

Cloth, plain edge, . . . $5 00
Half morocco, gilt edge, . . 6 00

By mail, 25 cents extra. Address

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EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

I would like to exchange European and United States Stamps, of present and obsolete issues, for United States Coins.

For further particulars, address

R. COLBURN,
Second Auditor's Office,
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CRESTS AND MONOGRAMS.

We can now supply collectors with Crests and Monograms at the following prices: 20 varieties, beautifuly stamped in colored relief, 25 cents; 50 varieties. beautifully stamped in colored relief. 75 cents. Address

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No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

Parties having duplicate medals, either English, French or American, &c., can get a good exchange for rare Canadian medals by addressing

ALFRED SANDHAM,
Montreal. Canada.

COINS FOR SALE.

U. S. Cents.

Date.	Condition.	Price.
1793	very poor	$ 50
1793	very fair	1 50
1793	very good	3 00
1794, '95 '96	good	1 50
1794, '95 '96	extra good.	2 50
1797, '98	very good.	50
1799	very poor.	2 00
1799	very fair.	5 00
1799	very good.	10 00
1800, '1, '2 '3	very good.	1 25
1804	fair.	1 50
1804	very fair.	2 50
1804	good.	5 00
1805, '06 '07	poor.	25
1805, '06 '07	fair.	50
1805, '06 '07	good.	1 50
1808	fair.	25
1808	good.	50
1809	poor.	50
1809	good.	1 50
1810, '11 '12	poor.	25
1810, '11 '12	very good.	1 00
1813,	good.	50
1817, '20	very good.	40
1821, '24	good.	30
1825, '30	very good.	30
1857	very good.	15

(All other dates, 1831 to 1856 inclusive, 5 cents each. Special terms by letter for finer cents).

U. S. Half Cents.

1793	poor.	1 50
1793	good.	3 00
1794, '95	good.	1 50
1794, '95	good.	1 00
1797, 1800	fair.	50
1803, '4, '5, '6, '7,	very good.	50
1808, '09, '10,	very good.	50
1825, '29	very good.	25
1832, '35	very good.	25
1849, '51	very good.	15
1853, '57	very good.	50
No. 28 to 39,		3 00
1802, '11	very fair.	3 00

☞ All the above sent by mail. Prices furnished and rare coins obtained, in any condition, upon application. Lists corrected monthly.